

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kamensk Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Air Activity Observed in Shakhty Area	DATE DISTR.	29 November 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. In summer 1952, small, very rapid aircraft which made a roaring noise were observed in the Shakhty (N 47-42, E 40-13) air space. They flew from the south, probably from Rostov, and departed in the same direction. Usually 10 to 12 aircraft flew side-by-side in elements of three at intervals of about 500 meters, followed by the other elements at distances of two to three kilometers and at different altitudes. Up to late September 1953, these aircraft were not heard after sunset but the air space was crossed by commercial aircraft at night.
2. During fall 1952, air maneuvers were held for about eight days in the Shakhty-Stalingrad-Rostov air space mainly east of Shakhty. At dawn, twin-engine aircraft, similar to the Boston A-20, and used for reconnaissance, circled the air space. Shortly thereafter, piston-engine aircraft and individual jet fighters crossed at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,000 meters. During the early morning, twin-engine aircraft, apparently bombers which resembled Pe-2s and DC-3s (sic), headed east at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters, flying in formations of three at intervals of about two minutes. These flights lasted for hours and apparently involved several hundred twin-engine bombers each day for several days. The bombers were protected by fighters. No aerial combats were observed, nor were the bombers seen returning. After nightfall, air activity was again rather intensive. No light signals were observed. After the maneuvers, the usual individual commercial aircraft and occasional jet aircraft from the Rostov area were observed in the Shakhty air space. No twin-jet aircraft or four-engine piston aircraft were observed.

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